MARVEL 2099

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X-NATION 2099™

DIRECT EDITION

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$1.95 US/$2.75 CAN

Stan Lee Presents:

KICKING AND SCREAMING

THE XAVIER SHELTER FOR INDIGENT CHILDREN, HALO CITY: A REFUGE FOR UNDER-AGE MUTANTS, MISFITS AND RUNAWAYS...

...WHO, ON OCCASION, CAN STILL FIND PLENTY TO RUN AWAY FROM.

=Huhhh= I CAN'T! I =Huhhh= GOTTA STOP!

NO! KEEP GOING!

LISTEN TO DECEMBER, MAN! YOU GET SNATCHED, IT'S YOUR FUNERAL!

THEY'LL MAKE US DRESS UP AND GO TO CHURCH AND EVERYTHING!

NOT ME! I'LL BE LONNNG GONE!

=Sniff= =Sniff= Uhhh- Ohh--

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X-NATION 2099™ Vol. 1, No. 2, April 1996. Published by MARVEL COMICS. Gerard Cabbarrus, President. Stan Lee, Publisher. OFFICE OF PUBLICATIONS: 387 PARK AVENUE SOUTH, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10016. SECOND CLASS POSTAGE PENDING AT NEW YORK AND AT ADDITIONAL MAILING OFFICES. Published monthly. Copyright © 1996 Marvel Characters, Inc. All rights reserved. Price $1.95 per copy in the U.S. and $2.75 in Canada. Subscription rates for 12 issues: $23.40 U.S., $35.40 foreign and Canadian subscribers must add $10.00 for postage and GST. GST #R127003852. No similarity between any of the names, characters, persons, and/or institutions in this magazine with those of any living or dead person or institution is intended, and any such similarity which may exist is purely coincidental. The periodical may not be sold except by authorized dealers and is sold subject to the condition that it shall not be sold or distributed with any part of its cover or markings removed, nor in a mutilated condition. X-NATION 2099 (including all prominent characters featured in this issue and the distinctive likenesses thereof) is a trademark of MARVEL CHARACTERS, INC. POSTMASTER: SEND ADDRESS CHANGES TO X-NATION 2099, c/o MARVEL DIRECT MARKETING CORP. SUBSCRIPTION DEPT. P.O. BOX 1979 DANBURY, CT. 06813-1979. TELEPHONE # (203) 743-5331. Printed in the U.S.A.

AAIIEEE

--WE'RE SNATCHED!!!

I GUESS WE'RE ALL GOING TO CHURCH--

--IN A BOX!

DON'T KILL ME- DON'T KILL ME- DON'T KILL ME- PLEASE SISTER- NICK--

KILL YOU LITTLE MUTANTS? JUST FOR BREAKING CURFEW?

WHAT A SPLENDID IDEA!

KLIK-KLAK!

=Hmm-Mmpphh=

I FAIL TO SEE WHAT'S SO HILARIOUS, LITTLE MISSY.!

CHECK A MIRROR, YOU BIG, STUPID HOWLER!

WHAT?

THAT'S IT! LINE UP! I'VE GOT A BULLET FOR EACH OF YOU.!

AHAHA HA HA HAHA

oh.

CRAP.

YOU'VE GOT JUST ENOUGH TIME LEFT ON EARTH TO PRAY FOR FORGIVENESS!

AND I SUGGEST YOU JOIN THEM.

Uhhh, WILLOW?

BEHIND YOU...

AAAHH!

KNOCK OFF THAT DUPLICATING POWER, WILLOW!

YOU'D *BETTER* BE SCARED.

I CAME HERE TO GIVE YOU ALL YOUR *PUNISHMENT* FOR SNEAKING OUT OF THE *SHELTER* LAST NIGHT*--

--BUT YOUR OBVIOUS LACK OF *REMORSE* TELLS ME THAT WHAT I HAD PLANNED IS *FAR* TOO *LENIENT*.

IT IS?

*SEE X-NATION 2099 #1. --JOEY

WAY TO GO, WILLOW! NOW WE'RE IN *DEEPER!*

Yeah! THANKS TO *WILLOW!*

YEAH!

CEREBRA? YOU LOOK LIKE YOU HAVE A *SUGGESTION*. MAKE IT GOOD AND *MEDIEVAL*.

Well... THEY MIGHT BEHAVE BETTER IF THEY HAD SOMETHING *USEFUL* TO DO...

... SOMETHING TO INSTILL A SENSE OF *PRIDE* IN THE SHELTER. MAYBE *CONSTRUCTION* WORK.

WORK!?

WHAT--?

SPEEYOWWW!!

THREEEE!

AAAAHH!

IN-CRED-IBLE!

YOU'D *SHOOT* THROUGH YOUR OWN *PAYING CUSTOMERS* TO GET TO *ME?*

CHARGING THEM A *FORTUNE*-- HERDING THEM LIKE *CATTLE*-- THAT'S *ONE* THING, BUT *THIS*--

SKAAAZT!

AAHHH! HE'S CUTTIN' US *OFF!* WHAT'S HE GOT, *EXPLOSIVES?*

WE *COPY*, MISTER SENTRY! AND WE *CARE!* 'CAUSE IT'S *CARING DAY!*

EVERY DAY IS *CARING DAY*, SILLYPUSS!

HEYYYY! *THERE'S* METALSMITH OVER *THERE!* LET'S MAKE HIM OUR *FRIEND!*

SKRAANCH!

DO YOUR *HOMEWORK!* THAT'S *METALSMITH!* ANY-THING *METAL'S* A *WEAPON* TO HIM!

PAGING *GREETERS!* GREETERS, *RESPOND!*

BEEYOWW!
BEYOOWW!

SKAZZZZ!

WHRRRR
WHRRR

--SO THE MONORAIL MUST COME TO ME.

I'LL SIMPLY DRAPE IT LIMPLY OVER THE "UN-BREACHABLE" WALL--

SPLENDID. CUT DOWN IN THE BLOOM OF YOUTH BY BLINKY-THE-SHOCKING-BUNNY.

I'LL NEVER REACH THAT MONO-RAIL BEFORE THOSE VIRTUAL VERMIN FINGER-PAINT THE WALLS WITH MY BRAINS--

--AND I AM OUT.

Ha! METALSMITH ONE, AVIAN--

FUMP!

--ZERO.

CRAP.

AVIAN.

DON'T BOTHER USING YOUR MENTAL POWER ON MY ARMOR, BOY. LIKE MOST EVERYTHING ELSE AROUND HERE--

--IT'S PLASTIC.

DELANO! FOREMAN! A *HYPOTHETICAL* QUESTION...

YOU ADMINISTER SECURITY FOR... LET'S SAY A *THEME PARK.*

YOU KEEP THE SHOCKING MUTANTS INSIDE THEIR SHOCKING CELLS! THAT'S WHAT YOU SHOCKING DO!

THE *PARK* HAS A SECRET CONTRACT WITH THE *GOVERNMENT* TO DETAIN AND SCREEN *MUTANTS.* THEY'RE LOOKING FOR... OH, THE *MESSIAH.*

YOUR GOVERNMENT *CLIENT* --WE'LL CALL HIM *HEROD*-- IS A MAD, BAD AND *DANGEROUS* MAN TO CROSS.

SO HERE IS YOUR *QUESTION:* WHAT DO YOU *DO* AT *ALL COSTS?*

Uhhh... Well...

Ahhh... OF COURSE. AND WE *APOLOGIZE.* FORTUNATELY, NO ONE ESCAPES THE GREAT *AVIAN.*

EXCEPT WILLOW AND DECEMBER.

I *HEARD* THAT.

AAHHH!

Uhhh... Ahhh... uhhhh...

ASSEMBLE A *TEAM.*

IT'S TIME SWEET *WILLOW* CAME *HOME.*

Mr. SOMERS... *MORPHINE*... THE SISTERS AND I REALLY DO *APPRECIATE* YOUR *CONCERN* FOR THESE CHILDREN, *AND* CEREBRA'S...

...BUT IF THEY CAN'T START FOLLOWING THE *RULES* WE *HAVE* TO LET THEM GO.

THAT'LL BE THE LAST *WE* SEE OF 'EM.

THIS'LL *KILL* CEREBRA, YOU KNOW SHE'S SO DEVOTED TO HER *MESSIAH QUEST.*

MESSIAH QUEST?

Yeah, *YOU* KNOW. THE *PROPHECY* AND ALL. SHE DID *TELL* YOU, DIDN'T SHE?

AS-SHOCKING-IF SHE *WOULD.*

NO, SHE DID *NOT.* WHAT *IS* THE PROPHECY?

LET'S SEE... ONE *MUTANT* OUT O' THE NEXT GENERATION'LL RISE UP AN' LEAD THE PERSECUTED...

...INTO A GOLDEN AGE OF PEACE, SECURITY, LOVE, YADDADA-YADDADA. A LOT OF PEOPLE SEEM TO BE BETTIN' IT'S ONE OF *OUR* KIDS..

AND WHAT MAKES YOU AND *CEREBRA* THINK THIS... *PROPHECY* WILL AFFECT *OUR* DECISIONS? REMEMBER...

"...*WE BELIEVE IN ONE MESSIAH, AND HE HAS ALREADY COME.*"

THERE, UPROAR. I THINK THIS'LL BE ENOUGH FOAM FOR NOW.

OWWW!

THAT'S *TWO* DISGUSTING WORDS YOU SAID TODAY.

WHAAAT?

"*WORK*" AND "*ENOUGH!*" COME *ON,* TOILET-MOUTH! CRAM IT *ALL* IN THERE!

WHAT DO WE DO *NOW*, WULFF?

JUST HANG ON A MINUTE. GOT TO GET THE *FRAME* UP, BEFORE WE CAN PUT UP *WALLS*.

CAN'T WE BUILD 'EM AROUND *SISTER NICK*?

HAW! WALL HER *IN!*

Okay, ENTER THE SETTINGS...

...AND *UP* POPS THE *FRAME!*

TCHAK!

Yeahh!

WULFF, I CAN'T *BELIEVE* YOU DID THIS *CONSTRUCTION* STUFF FOR A *LIVING!* IT'S SHEER *TORTURE!*

ACTIVATING *PLACEMENT FIELD!*

FZAK!

THAT'S THE *WALLS?* I CAN SEE RIGHT *THROUGH* 'EM!

NO, *IDIOT!* IT'S JUST TO HOLD THE *FIBERFOAM* IN PLACE. WE'RE GONNA *SPRAY* THE WALLS *ON!*

START YOUR *PUMPS*, GANG!

SPLUTCH!

SEE! THIS AIN'T SO BAD!

IT'S KINDA MESSY!

WHAT?

CHUNKA CHUNKA CHUNKA

THEY SEEM PRETTY *INVOLVED.*

THIS WAS A GOOD *IDEA*, CEREBRA... BUT DON'T TELL 'EM *I* THINK SO, OKAY?

TAA-DAA!

DONE! PERFECT! FLAWLESS! I'M A BORN CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER!

OF COURSE, ANY MORON COULD SQUIRT GOOP ON A WALL...

SHUT UP, DECEMBER!

WHAT? Oh.

NICE WALL...

I GOT A BAD BATCH! IT'S THE ONLY ANSWER!

EITHER THAT... OR ANY MORON CAN'T SQUIRT GOOP ON A WALL.

I SAID SHUT UP! THE WHOLE THING'S STUPID ANYWAY!

OUR BUILDING!

YOU BROKE IT!

UPROAR, YOU CREEP!

FIVE MINUTES' WORK... RIGHT DOWN THE SEWER!

"WORK?"

DON'T YOU USE THAT WORD AROUND ME!

SKREEE

LAST STOP, BOYS!

THOSE HALO CITY *PLANS* THAT HEROD GAVE US DID THE *TRICK!* — CHECK-*POINTS*, NO *HASSLE!*

YOU KNOW WHAT TO DO FROM *HERE!*

YEAH! ONLY *HASSLE'S* GOING TO COME FROM *US!*

THAT'S A *GLOOMY* THING TO SAY! JUST SAY *HAPPY* THINGS!

YOU *COMIN'* BOSS?

NO. I CAN'T... *FACE* HER. NOT *YET.* JUST *HOLLER* IF YOU *REALLY NEED* ME.

AND BRING *WILLOW* BACK *ALIVE.*

WILLOW?

WILLOW.

WILLOW! SHE'S THAT GANG *WULFF* RAN OFF TO! THE GANG THAT BUSTED MY *WILD BOYS!*

THIS BEARS *WATCHING.*

Ohhh, Yes.

...AND I SEE WHY YOU'RE ALL UPSET WITH *UPROAR*, BUT HAVE YOU TRIED TO MAKE HIM *UNDERSTAND*?

I *CALLED* HIM A *MORON*! WHERE WERE *YOU*?

I *HEARD*. BUT I'D LIKE YOU EACH TO TELL HIM-- IN *CONSTRUCTIVE* TERMS-- JUST HOW HE MADE YOU *FEEL*.

WELL? WHO *STARTS*?

WILLOW?

...

WULFF?

ALL RIGHT. *LISTEN*. *HOMO SAPIENS* TEND TO [redacted] THEMSELVES AS *INDIVIDUALS*, AND ACT ACCORDINGLY. THAT'S FINE FOR *THEM*.

BUT WE *MUTANTS* SEE THINGS *DIFFERENTLY*. WE BOND IN *GROUPS*. THAT IS OUR *HERITAGE*.

THAT MEANS WE WORK *TOGETHER*, AND *COMMUNICATE*, NO MATTER HOW *DIFFICULT*.

IS ANY OF THIS GETTING *THROUGH* TO YOU?

ALL RIGHT. DO YOU KNOW *WHY* WE FORM GROUPS? BECAUSE WE *HAVE* TO.

BECAUSE THE WORLD IS *FULL* OF THUGS AND BULLIES WHO WANT TO SEE US *DEAD*, AND IT ALWAYS *HAS* BEEN.

SO YOU'D BETTER GET YOUR *ACT* TOGETHER IF YOU WANT TO *LIVE*.

BUT *HALO CITY'S* SUPPOSED TO BE *SAFE*...

COME *ON*, WILLOW. DON'T TELL ME THIS IS *NEWS* TO YOU.

Ahhh, SHE'S JUST TRYING TO SCARE US INTO GETTIN' ALL *TOUCHY-FEELY*.

Oh.

WHAT? *WHAT*?!

OH....

BOSS JUST WANTS *WILLOW* ALIVE, RIGHT? HE DIDN'T MENTION THE *REST?*

TARGET *SIGHTED!* HEADING *IN!*

NOPE. THEY'RE *OURS.*

GOOD.

HEY, KIDS! WHAT DAY IS IT?

CARING DAY!

WHOOAA! THAT'S *KORNY THE KAT!* I *LOVE* HIM!

I DON'T THINK HE LOVES *YOU!*

VLIPP!

VLIPP!

Oh, SHOCK! *WILLOW!*

WHAT--?

I *KNOW* THESE CREEPS! THEY'RE AFTER *WILLOW!*

WILLOW!

WIL-LOWWW!

VLIPP!

VLIPP!

SISTER ROSE! WHAT'S ALL THAT *RACKET?*

OH, MY LORD~! ARMED *INVADERS*, SISTER! THEY'RE *ATTACKING* THE *CHILDREN!*

I GUESS *THAT* ANSWERS YOUR *PRAYERS.*

MORPHINE, DON'T BE *GROTESQUE!*

I WANT THEM TO *LEAVE*, NOT *DIE!*

NOW, NOW! THINK *HAPPY* TH~ SKZAAKK

LUCKY *KIDS.*

BIRDY-BIRD! THEY *GOT* YOU!

HEY, *JERK-WEED.*

Wha--?

YEAH, *YOU!* YOU KNOW WHAT *I'VE* GOT?

MY OWN SPECIAL *PLACE. I* CALL IT MY *SPHERE* OF *INFLUENCE.* ISN'T THAT *CLEVER?*

HEYYY!

NOW YOU'RE CURIOUS. WHAT MAKES IT SO *SPECIAL?* Well, I'LL *TELL* YOU. IN *HERE...*

...WHATEVER I *WANT...*

SSSSSSSSSS

...HAPPENS...

AAAHHH!

AND WHAT ABOUT THINGS YOU *DON'T* WANT?

WONNK!

=UNNHH=

STUPID *KID!*

FAASSHH!!

FUN'S *OVER*, WILLOW! I'M TAKING YOU *HOME* TO *AVIAN!*

NO!

FAASSH!

WILLOW!

THIS IS NONE OF YOUR *BUSINESS*, LITTLE BOY, SO *SHUT UP!*

SHUT UP? *ME?*

MAN, YOU'D THINK THEY'D DO THEIR *HOME-WORK.*

DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA HOW MUCH *PAIN* YOU'VE CAUSED AVIAN, YOU SELFISH LITTLE--

I OWE YOU *BIG*, CLARION! THAT WAS *UNBELIEVABLE!*

SNKK!

VROOMM!

WILLOW! JUMP!

SKRAAAKK!

AAARR!

NOISE-INTO-*FORCE*. WORKS EVERY TI-- *SHOCK!* HE'S FIRING INTO THE *SHELTER!*

SAINTS PRESERVE US! IF I COULD JUST GET A CLEAR SHOT!

THAT'D TAKE A MIRACLE, THE WAY WE'RE BOXED IN HERE!

HEYY! YOU'RE THE SISTERS OF THE HOWLING COMMAND-MENTS! YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO BE GOOD AT THIS CRAP!

LANGUAGE, Mr. SOMERS!

Oh, BLOW IT OUT YOUR--! ARE WE GONNA DIE, OR WHAT?

NOT THIS WAY. READY, SISTER?

NOW, SISTER.

WAh-hOOOO!

KSSHH!!

BUDDA BUDDA BUDDA

BEEYOW!

TWILIGHT'S DOWN! SOMEBODY COVER US WHILE I GET HER TO SAFE--

I GOT YOU! GO!!

AND AS FOR YOU, GIRL, THERE'S NO WAY YOU'RE DRAGGING ME BACK TO THAT SLEAZY AVIAN!

WE'RE JUST AFTER WILLOW. I DON'T CARE ABOUT YOU.

OOOhhh--.

--THAT'S COLD!

SKRAAK!

YOU'D BETTER NOT LET KORNY KAT HEAR YOU TALK LIKE THAT!

=URRHHH!=

WILLOW! WHERE IS--

HEY HEY, PAL! ARE YOU WILLOW'S FRIENDLY-FRIEND? THAT MAKES YOU KORNY'S FRIENDLY-FRIEND TOO!

PUT 'ER THERE!

KAT! GET AWAY FROM CLARION!

HEEYYY, YOU BIG MEANY! IS THIS HOW YOU ACT ON CARING DAY?

BECAUSE EVERY DAY IS--

KRAK!

--I DON'T CARE!

I CALL THE REST OF 'EM!

Ha! EAT GLOP, LOSER!

UPROAR, YOU PIG--

SYLORR!

THWK!

KORNY--

--FORGET ABOUT HOGGING IT ALL FOR ONCE--

--'CAUSE THIS ONE'S MINE!

BUDDA BUDDA BUDDA

I COUNT FOUR LEFT, SISTER!

BEEYOW! BEEYOW!

JUMP!

THAT'S TWO-TO-ONE ODDS!

DON'T THESE TRESPASSERS KNOW THAT SUICIDE IS A SIN?

LOOKS LIKE THEY FIGURED IT OUT, SISTER!

RUN, YOU SHOCKING COWARDS!

BUDDA BUDDA BUDDA

AHHHRRR!! AVERT YOUR TRANSMITTERS, RAZORWING!

I CAN'T BEAR THE SIGHT OF FAILURE!

SKREE!

I'M GOING TO CLOSE MY EYES AND COUNT TO THREE. YOU KNOW WHAT TO DO, MY FRIEND.

SKREEE!

ONE...

...TWO...

FAASSHH!

LORD, THEIR OWN TROOPS.

NOSTROMO!

I'M ON IT, CLARION--

THWIKK!

SKREEEEEE

FORGET IT, GUYS. LET IT GO. I KNOW WHO'S BEHIND THIS--

--AND WE'RE NOT GONNA GET NEAR HIM. NOT TODAY.

FEASHH!

HEY, SISSY! THAT WAS SOME FANCY SHOOTIN' YOU DID BACK THERE!

SLAP!

AN' HERE I THOUGHT YOU WERE JUST BIG, BOSSY STIFFS!

YOUNG MAN...

Yeah?

I...

THANK YOU.

IT'S OVER, TWILIGHT. NO PERMANENT DAMAGE... TO OUR SIDE, ANYWAY.

AREN'T YOU FORGETTING SOMEBODY?

WHAT? Oh, Geez...

WHAT HAPPENED? I WOKE UP INSIDE, AND I CAME OUT... AND...

HEAD COUNT, GANG:

ONE...

TWO...

THREE...

WILLOW!

HOLY SHOCK! CLARION, SHE'S GONE!

THEN-- THEY DID GET HER!

HOW'S THAT POSSIBLE? WE BEAT THEM ALL!

WILLOW!

TO BE CONTINUED!

MILLION PALMS FAMILY FUN FACILITY, HAVANA, FLORIDA.

NUMBER OF PALM TREES IN ITS NAME: 1,000,000. NUMBER OF PALM TREES IN THE PARK: 0.

BUT THAT DOESN'T MATTER TO THE 8,000,000 FAMILIES WHO ANNUALLY FLOCK THROUGH ITS GATES TO GORGE ON ITS WONDERS...

...ROBOTIC ANIMALS, DIZZYING RIDES, WORKS OF PURE IMAGINATION, TRIBUTES TO ETHNIC CULTURES...

...ALL GLOSSY, CLEANED-UP FORGERIES. THE WORLD KILLED THE ORIGINALS LONG AGO.

OUTSIDE ITS IMPENETRABLE WALLS, VISITORS PATIENTLY WAIT AN AVERAGE OF 3 HOURS IN THE TROPICAL SUN JUST TO ENTER...

...WHILE HERE IN WELCOME VALLEY, A YOUNG MUTANT CALLED METALSMITH DESPERATELY SEEKS A WAY OUT.

GOOD LORD, THE SMELL OF THE PLACE.

DELANO! I'M READING A BREACH IN WELCOME VALLEY, LEVEL SIX.

AND THERE HE IS, SLITHERING OUT OF UTILITY PIT 23. I RECOGNIZE HIM.

DETAINEE.

URR-URR-URR

SECURITY TO U-P 23.

URR-URR-URR

'SCUSE ME.

'SCUSE ME.

OH, SHOCK! SENTRIES!

SHOOTING TO KILL ON THREE! ONE ...TWO...